



Barks, brigs and schooners in Kastellorizo's harbour in 1902

## KASTELLORIZO'S FLEET OF SHIPS, 1905 – A PRECIOUS FIND

By Nicholas Pappas, Sydney

The scale of Kastellorizo's merchant fleet in the 19th and early 20th centuries has long been a source of fascination for the island's descendants. The ubiquitous photograph of a harbour crammed with two and three-masted ships still adorns many Kastellorizian homes and proudly reinforces a vivid, yet nonetheless intangible, 'memory' of wealth and mercantile activity that belies the island's more recent devastation and isolation.

Much of this discourse has been based on nostalgia rather than fact, with few documentary sources providing insights into what the island's dynamic fleet actually comprised. British consular reports from the second half of the 19th century tell us about the relative importance of the island's fleet, the islanders' dependence on shipbuilding and sponge fishing (at least until the early 1890s), and the impact of their reluctance to turn to steam-powered travel. But, there has been very little detail on the vessels themselves, their registered names, their capacities and - most interestingly - their owners. That is, until now.

The recent discovery by the author of a previously-unknown list of ships from 1905 gives us, for the first time, a detailed snapshot of Kastellorizo's entire fleet in April 1905, not long before the impact of the Young Turk's onerous policies was felt.<sup>1</sup> The document was found in the General State Archives in Athens<sup>2</sup> and belongs to a file of a diplomat based in Rhodes (then still part of the Ottoman Empire), **Stamatios Kiouzés Pezás**, a Greek-Armenian in the service of the Greek Foreign Ministry.<sup>3</sup>

Pezás had received the document as part of a policy whereby the Greek Foreign Ministry encouraged its diplomats scattered across the Ottoman Empire to monitor the activities of Hellenic communities. Like Pezás, Greek diplomats submitted regular updates to Athens on matters ranging from trade figures, per capita income levels and asset ownership among Greeks living outside the Kingdom. Fortunately for us today, Pezás relied on a local

Kastellorizian to compile a catalogue of the island's vessels and the person he chose was especially thorough.

**Yeorgios Stavrianos**<sup>4</sup> was an established merchant who was well-connected on the island and respected for his close relations with both Greek & Ottoman authorities. Stavrianos completed his work between March-April 1905 and, by letter dated 20 April 1905, reported to Pezás on his private letterhead in the following terms:

*To S. Kiouzés Pezás  
 Consul of His Majesty the King of the Hellenes  
 Rhodes*

*Hristos Anesti!*

*In accordance with my letter to you of 13 April, I hereby inform you that you will find attached to this letter the Table of Ships.*

*Please convey my respects to your honourable family together with those of my own family.*

*I close with respect,  
 Yours truly,  
 Y Stavrianos*

The carefully-prepared handwritten document Stavrianos attached to his letter comprised four folios. Headed 'Table of Ships in Kastellorizo', the document is divided into four columns titled respectively 'Type of ship', 'Name of ship', 'Tonnage' and 'Name of Shipowner'. It lists a total of 86 vessels. These comprise 13 barks (3-masted, square-rigged), 23 brigs (2-masted, square-rigged), 15 schooners (2-3 masted, fore & aft rigging) and 24 gulets (small schooners).

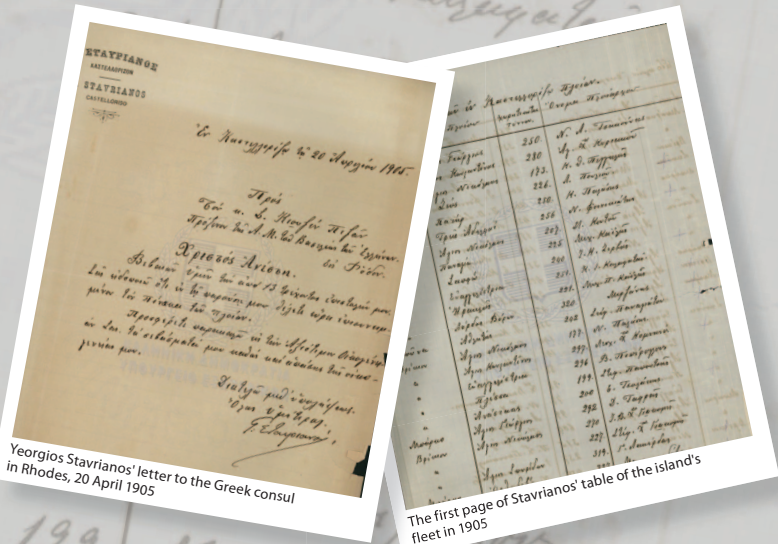
Also listed are 7 *trechandíria* (single-masted, fore & aft) and 4 *bratsiéres* (small, two-masted, fore & aft). The largest ship weighed in at a massive 600 tonnes and belonged to the **Hatzigavriel** family, while the smallest was a *bratsiéra* with a weight of 10 tonnes.<sup>5</sup>



Given its importance, a translation of the complete document follows. Names of individuals and their vessels have been transliterated exactly as they appear, though the columns have been re-arranged to permit easier reading of the shipowners' surnames. The order of the vessels, too, has been altered to list ships according to their tonnage, from largest to smallest.

Table of Ships and their Owners, 1905			
Name of owner	Name of ship	Tonnage	Type
H'Gavriel <sup>6</sup>	Ayios Nikolaos	600	Bark
Fermanis, S.	Panormitis	450	Bark
Symeon, N.		450	Bark
Loukas, L.Y.	Ayios Nikolaos	439	Bark
Amoryianos, Y.	Ayia Trias	420	Bark
Kondylios, D.N.	Ayios Nikolaos	405	Bark
Koufos, A.	Stavrosproskynesis	388	Bark
Loukas, K.Y.	Yeorgios	342	Brig
Livissianos, Y.	Iakovos	337	Bark
Mavrokordatos	Orthodoxia	327	Bark
Merzanis	Lordhos Vyron	320	Brig
Lakerdis, Y.	Ayios Spyridon	319	Brig
H'Yiannakis, P.	Angelos	315	Bark
Kontos, E.	Nikolaos	315	Schooner
H'Komninou, Mih.	Ayios Konstandinos	297	Brig
Nikolaou, St.	Evangelistria	296	Bark
Piperoglou, V.	Evangelistria	296	Brig
Tafras, D.	Ayios Yeorgios	292	Bark
H'Kyriakou, Ag.	Ayios Konstandinos	280	Brig
H'Yiakomis, I.V.	Ayios Nikolaos	270	Brig
H'Theodosiou, Mih.	Ayios Nikolaos	266	Schooner
Mavrokordatos, I.	Nikolaos	257	Brig
Finikiotis, N	Tris Adhelfi	256	Brig
Kalafatas, K.I.	Evangelistria	251	Brig
Palasis, K.	Pater	250	Brig
Tsakounis, N. A.	Ayios Yeorgios	250	Brig
Atzemis, S.Y.	Ayios Konstandinos	247	Brig
Panagiotou, Stef.	Athlitis	242	Schooner
Zervos, I.K.	Sappho	240	Brig
H'Yiakomis, Stef.		227	Brig
Pouliou, L.	Zeus	226	Brig
Kailis, Mih.	Panaghia	225	Brig
Kailis, Mih. P.	Iraklis	221	Brig
Kontou, St.	Ayios Nikolaos	207	Brig
Finikiotis, I.	Marigo	200	Schooner
Savvas, D.V.	Marigo	200	Bark
Tsolakis, E.	Anastasis	200	Brig
Yemenis, A,		200	Schooner
Papoutsis, Stef.	Plessa	199	Brig
Pitsikas	Ayia Trias	197	Schooner
Palasis, N.	Ayios Nikolaos	177	Brig
Penglis, K. Th.	Ayios Nikolaos	173	Brig
Bollos, M.	Ayios Spyridon	144	Schooner
Konomos, K.	Ariadne	141	Schooner
Kyriakakis, V.	Evangelistria	140	Schooner
Economos, Evang.	Ayios Nikolaos	119	Schooner
Mikellis, V.	Ayia Paraskevi	110	Gulet
Exintaris, A.	Evangelistria	99	Schooner
Xylangouros, H'Vas.	Ayios Nikolaos	98	Schooner
Salakas, D.	Emporiani	96	Gulet
Stefanou, A.	Afroditi	96	Gulet
H'Diamandas, St.	Metamorphosis	91	Schooner
Papoutsis, P.	Evangelistria	88	Schooner

Name of owner	Name of ship	Tonnage	Type
H'Doulou, N.	Panormitis	77	Schooner
Karantonis, I.	Evangelistria	71	Gulet
Kannis, P.	Ayios Yeorgios	64	Gulet
Palasis, E.N.	Ypermachos	56	Gulet
H'Zafiris, A.	Evangelistria	54	Trehantiri
H'Argyris, An.	Panormitis	51	Gulet
Kannis, K.	Marigo	49	Trehantiri
Papakotis, Y.		49	Gulet
H'Dimitriou, N.	Taxiarchis	47	Gulet
Boyiatzis, A.	Panaghia	45	Gulet
H'Efstathiou, Tring. A.	Ayios Theodoros	42	Gulet
Boyiatzis, Tringas	Ayios Merkourios	40	Gulet
Yeronikolas, Hatzis	Ayios Nikolaos	40	Gulet
Vardamias, Mih.	Ayia Ayion	39	Gulet
Barbouttis, Y.	Evangelistria	38	Gulet
Nikiforou, K.	Panteleimon	37	Gulet
Haramis, Ioan.	Ayia Trias	36	Gulet
Valianos, K.	Verdhi Bachri	33	Gulet
Kakoulas, Evang.	Evangelistria	28	Gulet
Kambouris, N.	Panormitis	26	Trehantiri
Koufos, An. S.	Evangelistria	26	Trehantiri
Antoniou, Evang.	Panormitis	25	Gulet
Papanastasiou, A.	Evangelistria	25	Gulet
Yianitsas, K.	Ourania	25	Trehantiri
Panayis, E.	Ayios Nikolaos	24	Trehantiri
Sotirakis, V.	Antigone	24	Gulet
Ibrahim, Mehmet <sup>7</sup>	Mouratie	19	Gulet
Anamourlis, Kyr.	Panaghia	18	Bratsiera
Koufos, Ag. S.	Ayios Nikolaos	18	Trehantiri
Tsopanis Yeronikolas	Evangelistria	18	Bratsiera
H'Stathi, Hatzis	Domenico	15	Gulet
Samios, Evang.	Ayios Nikolaos	10	Bratsiera
Samiotis, Ag.	Evangelistria	10	Bratsiera



<sup>1</sup>The Young Turk movement had as one of the central pillars of its rise to power the abrogation of tax and conscription privileges enjoyed for centuries by minorities within the Empire.

<sup>2</sup>The document appears in file 1905/56/2 ('Περι Ρόδου κτλ').

<sup>3</sup>Stamatios Kiouzés Pezás served as Greek consul in Rhodes between 29 February 1904 and 29 April 1906. My thanks to Fotini Halvantzi for sourcing this information from the Service of Diplomatic & Historical Archives.

<sup>4</sup>Georgios Stavrianos was, with his son Dimitrios, the representative on the island of the Pantaleon shipping line which operated a steamer service to the island each Friday. He was therefore well-placed to compile the list.

<sup>5</sup>By way of comparison, a later list, published in the August 1938 edition of Megiste, cites only 10 sailing vessels, supplemented by 4 steamers (including the 1,000-tonne steamer of the sons of Evangelos Stamatoglou which sailed under the Egyptian flag, and the 500-tonne steamer of Ioannis Smaragdas which sailed under a British flag). It also lists 11 diesel-powered smaller vessels which were more recent additions to the island's fleet.

<sup>6</sup>The abbreviation is a transliteration of the common shorthand way of writing the 'Hatzí' prefix, an indication that the person had accomplished the Christian version of the haj, a visit to the River Jordan.

<sup>7</sup>Mehmet Ibrahim is the only Turk on the list. In 1905 there were still some 30 Turkish families living on the island, but most of the adult males were engaged in work in the Ottoman civil service or in agriculture.





# KASTELLORIZIAN WOMAN

By Margarita Kannis, Kastellorizo

As a little girl, I ran barefoot through the streets of Perth. I was a typical Australian child, carefree and loving life. But I was more than that.

We played in the street, we played at the beach. We played with our friends. Our friends were our cousins. I was a typical Australian child. But I was more than that. And I AM still more than that. My mother was Kastellorizian. And I thank my father every day for recognising who she was.

And I am a Kastellorizian woman. Not because I was born on this island. I wasn't. Not because I grew up here. I didn't. But when I first stepped off the plane all those years ago, my spirit was finally at peace. And I was home.

I love the women here. They are strong. They are devoted to their families. They are funny. They gossip with each other and about each other. But if one is in trouble, they are all there to help. We have many differences because of where we were born and where we grew up. But we have many things in common. And for me, I see it is the blood pulsing through our veins, making the beat of our hearts; it is the breath filling our spirit with a love of life.

They work for their families. They are devoted to their families. They work 15 hours a day, every day during the tourist season. During this time, their children are left to play together until late into the night. But the strong ties their mothers have forged keep them safe.

They have seen little of the world. Many have not gone past Athens or Rhodes. Some have never left Kastellorizo.

Most of them did not stay at school as long as they could have done; some of them never went to school at all. Many have never known the joy of reading a book, of immersing themselves in the fantasies and stories of others.

They got their news from whispers not from newspapers. They got their stories from their families.

And families were and are everything to them.

They love to cook. Their cooking is not just for nourishment for the body. Meal times are used to nourish the spirit. Eating is necessary to keep their families bonded and to invite friends to share their table. Food is what is remembered. Our mothers' most beloved recipes, the warm and happy moments when she gave you a spoonful of what was to come. The comforting aromas of our favourite dishes. Memories of family Easter and Christmas tables. Laughing. Singing. Eating. Loving. Grandmothers passing tidbits, sweets into your hand. A secret. Between them and you. The ties that bind.

Their hardships have been recorded. We have heard many of the challenges they faced. When the island was a home for sea merchants, the women stayed at home for six or more months at a time. Their husbands would return, and when they left again for destinations far away, some found themselves pregnant again. And another six or more months without support. Bearing their babies with only women to support them. No communication. No way of knowing when or if their husbands would return. On this rock. Through storms, and searing summers. Feeding children, nurturing, disciplining, taking care of the house and the household. Dealing with illnesses. Often without any male support for very long periods of time.

Perhaps this life of responsibility is what has developed our survival gene; our matriarchy, where women run the house and the family. Because this strength has been in the Kazzie woman ever since.

They have kept their families together through wars, famine, natural disasters. They have lost their families to wars, famine and disasters.





When the men returned, the women moved into the background. Their husbands were kings. Their demands were fulfilled. They were at their beck and call. And these were more often than not, men who had been chosen for them.

Right up until the 20th century, arranged marriages had been the norm. Payments of family debts, favours, simple matchups. Through the centuries young teenage girls were presented with who they were going to spend the rest of their lives with, sometimes days, moments before their marriage. And all methods were used to ensure they were in pristine condition.

Kastellorizo has the most beautiful back streets. They are narrow, enchanting and secretive. This is where women walked between destinations. Not because it was a lovely walk, but so they could not tempt the men sitting on the limani, drinking coffee, solving the problems or their world.

At puberty, girls were locked up in their houses until they could be handed over to a man, "in good condition". So the women came up with a fairy tale to let them move freely in the streets.

The folklore of the sleep walkers is rumoured to have emerged to enable women to visit each other without fear, to leave their "prisons". They were said to have dressed in their finest, leaving their houses in a sleep like trance and it was understood that they should not be disturbed. Some tell this story, that they covered themselves with a customary long shirt, to appear ghostlike, to deter even further, any inquisitors. Either way, it was a very creative way to overcome a difficult situation.

Education? For most, there was none. The girls' school was built by the philanthropist, Loukas (Santrape). But even today, if you ask most women over 50, they had little or no education. At all.

And what has improved is that now all girls on the island have an education. The current generation of mothers can see there are

many opportunities for their daughters, if only they can access them. They are equal in applying for student exchange places. They are equal in the classroom. Until recently, it would have been unheard of to send a young girl away without family chaperoning. Mothers today can see the world is open for their female children. But it is not made easy. To educate any child on Kastellorizo, even today so that they can enter University, is a challenge. In Greece, the teachers are hired for subjects, not for class requirements. So if a girl (or boy) needs a subject such as biology to go on to science or medicine, if there is no teacher for biology they either have to change the direction of their dreams, or study externally. So mothers are as always, finding a way. They have started sending their children to Rhodes or the mainland to complete their high school education, if necessary subjects are missing. The sacrifice of this to a Kastellorizan mother cannot be measured. Especially if the child is a girl.

The future women of Kastellorizo, the nurturers of our amazing culture, are taking us into the 21st century. Slowly, untwisting some of the knotted ropes of the past, finding a new path to the future.

With the help of the internet, and with their own travel experiences they are opening up the world to their daughters. The future is beckoning.

It still will not be easy.

The isolation of the island, the fear of the unknown will cause stumbling blocks along the road, but I can see in the girls' eyes the excitement of what could be for them. What will be for some of them, because their genes, from their mothers, from their grandmothers, from their great grandmothers, will get them there.

They, we are KASTELLORIZIAN women. and I would rather be with them, here, than anywhere else in the world.



# SHARING FAMILY RECIPES



By Sue Papadoulis, Perth

A local cookbook compiled by a group of Greek women celebrating their traditional cuisine from the island of Kastellorizo and other parts of Greece has proven to be a big fat Greek hit, selling out soon after its release.

'From our GREEK KITCHEN to yours' was initially launched on the 9 October 2016 and sold at the Greek Glendi festival last year in Perth, Western Australia. And of course, nothing beats Greek whispers about the wonderful new recipe book. They are all saying that you must have one in your home. This recipe book has created a demand for backorders and a third print run.

The cookbook is a record of the Greek Australian community's culinary journey which began with cooking classes organised by the Castellorizian Association of Western Australia.

Editor of the book, former Home Economics teacher, Helen Anastasas said it all started with the Saturday afternoon cooking class in 2011 with Greek women who enjoyed sharing their traditional recipes handed down through the generations.

"The cooking classes evolved from a demonstration by one member of the community who was happy to share her own version of a popular Greek recipe," said Mrs Anastasas.

"I remember the first demonstration in 2011 on how to make the Castellorizian sweet katoumari. From this point on the enthusiasm and excitement just grew, and soon there was no shortage of volunteers wanting to help out," she said. "The classes were always much more than a cooking demonstration. Greek women love to talk and so we naturally shared stories and reminiscences about the recipes, where they came from, who made them in years gone by and anecdotes from past generations."

Most of the participants in the classes are children or grandchildren of migrants from Kastellorizo who came to Australia from the early 1900s, but there are also women whose families come from other parts of Greece.

"Our grandparents and great grandparents brought their recipes and traditions with them and they were very much part of their identity in

those early years, and still are today. For example, in the lead up to Easter this year, we had a class demonstrating traditional red egg dying with one particular family incorporating the Orthodox Christian cross stencil designs using leaves from the garden. This tradition is unique to this family and it's lovely that others can all share in it."

"As a group it was realised that the Saturday afternoon gatherings are something special and I started to think about how we could record this oral history for future generations."

"A cookbook of recipes and personal stories seemed a very natural thing to do."

"We know there are many Greek cookbooks out there, but ours is about more than the food – it comes from the heart and links us to our mothers, grandmothers, great grandmothers and beyond."

"The book contains around 100 recipes by more than 50 contributors who attended the classes."

"Many of the recipes come with the personal insight into the recipe's history and its place in their family's traditions."

"While it's preserving our history, there's also a contemporary approach to traditional dishes with some of the recipes; a combination of the old and new."

"We originally thought it would be interesting to people in our community, but suddenly there's a demand that's much bigger than we anticipated."

"Not only that, but there's a waiting list to join the cooking classes!"

The book had an initial print run of 1000 and was funded by income from the 2015 Glendi as well as support from private sponsors which enabled lavish photography and a high standard of production.

'From our GREEK KITCHEN to yours' (RRP \$40) is available from the Castellorizian Association of Western Australia.

Contact Anita Verne Filmer on +61407 922 783 or email [anita@halmac.com.au](mailto:anita@halmac.com.au) for details



# PROVERBS BY DR PAUL BOYATZIS, PERTH

## Proverbs

Ilios ke fengari pou pandrevounde I gathari.

(The sun is present with the moon, a time when the donkeys marry....Impossibility)

To indicate and stress the impossible happening.

Me ta Yiassou.

(Health to you.)

An expression offered to person when he or she acquires something new, as in clothing.

## Kastellorizian Lexicon (Kazzy words in bold letters)

<b>Voúlla</b>	ólla	all
<b>Apoutárahó</b>	avgotárahó	dry fish roe delicacy
<b>Anaxeratós</b>	emetós	vomitus
<b>Épsima</b>	petmézi	sweet liquid / trickle
<b>Kakkamíla</b>	maskareménos	dressed wearing a mask
<b>Kanévgo</b>	simathévo	identify / point out
<b>Sístasis</b>	diéfthynsis	address
<b>Misévo</b>	févgo stin xenitiá	going to a foreign country (overseas)
<b>Kaskaváli</b>	kasséri	hard / mature cheese
<b>Karkathiá</b>	koutsouliá	chook droppings
<b>Zósma</b>	farthiá ifasmátini zóni	wide waist belt made from material
<b>Áhti</b>	písma	vengeance

## WANT TO SEE THE LATEST SUMMER PICS? FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM



The FRIENDS OF KASTELLORIZO Instagram page @kastellorizofriends is now the most popular Instagram page dedicated to our island. We now have over 1000 followers which is growing daily.

If you have photos to share, we encourage you to do so using the hashtag #kastellorizofriends on your Instagram posts about Kastellorizo, and we'll look to repost as many of your images as we can.



*Friends of Kastellorizo* would like to thank Dr George Stabelos and family for sponsoring this edition of *Filia*.

To become a member, to advertise or for general information contact Marilyn Tsolakis,  
FoK Co-ordinator | + 61 423 776 896 | coordinator@kastellorizo.com  
www.kastellorizo.com | PO Box 2118 Churchlands, Western Australia 6018.